

Specs

10/549698

JC20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 19 SEP 2003

DESCRIPTION

SUBSTRATE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND PRODUCING METHOD OF
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE

Technical Field

The present invention relates to a substrate processing apparatus and a producing method of a semiconductor device, and more particularly, to a semiconductor producing apparatus which forms a film by ALD (Atomic layer Deposition) method used when an Si semiconductor device is produced, and to a producing method of a semiconductor device by the ALD method.

Background Art

A film forming processing using the ALD method which is one of CVD (Chemical Vapor Deposition) methods will be explained briefly.

The ALD method is a method in which two (or more) kinds of raw material gases used for forming a film are alternately supplied onto a substrate by one kind by one kind under certain film forming conditions (temperature, time and the like), the gases are allowed to be adsorbed by one atomic layer by one atomic layer, and a film is formed utilizing a surface reaction.

That is, when an Al_2O_3 (aluminum oxide) film is to be produced for example, a high quality film can be formed at a low temperature as low as 250 to 450°C by alternately supplying TMA ($\text{Al}(\text{CH}_3)_3$, trimethyl aluminum) and O_3 (ozone) using the ALD method. In the ALD method, a film is formed by supplying a plurality of reaction gases alternately one kind by one kind in this manner. The thickness of the film is controlled by the number of cycles of the supply of the reaction gases. For example, when film forming speed is 1Å/cycle, in order to form a film of 20Å, 20 cycles of the film forming processing are carried out.

A conventional ALD apparatus which forms the Al_2O_3 film is called a single wafer type apparatus in which the number of substrates to be processed in one processing furnace at a time is one to five, and an apparatus called a batch type apparatus in which 25 or more substrates are arranged in parallel to an axial direction of a reaction tube has not yet become commercially practical.

When an Al_2O_3 film is formed by such a vertical batch type apparatus using TMA and O_3 , if a TMA nozzle and an O_3 nozzle separately disposed vertically in the reaction furnace, there is an adverse possibility that TMA is decompose in the TMA gas nozzle and Al (aluminum) film is formed, and if the film becomes thick, it is peeled off and becomes a foreign matter

generating source.

It is a main object of the present invention to provide a substrate processing apparatus and a producing method of a semiconductor device capable of suppressing the generation of foreign matter caused by peel by preventing a film from being produced in a nozzle.

Disclosure of the Invention

According to one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a substrate processing apparatus having a processing chamber which accommodates a substrate or substrates therein, and a heating member which heats said substrate or substrates, in which at least two gases which react with each other are alternately supplied into said processing chamber to form a desired film or films on a surface or surfaces of said substrate or substrates, characterized by comprising:

two supply tubes through which said two gases respectively flow independently from each other; and

a single gas supply member which supplies said gases into said processing chamber and which has a portion extending to a region whose temperature is equal to or higher than a decomposition temperature of at least one of said two gases, wherein

said two supply tubes are connected to said gas supply member at a location whose temperature is lower than the decomposition temperature of said at least one gas, and said two gases are supplied into said processing chamber through said gas supply member.

According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a substrate processing apparatus comprising a hot wall type processing furnace which includes a processing chamber which accommodates a substrate or substrates therein and a heating member which is disposed outside of said processing chamber and which heats said substrate or substrates, wherein at least two gases which react with each other are alternately supplied into said processing chamber to produce a desired film or films on a surface or surfaces of said substrate or substrates, characterized by comprising:

two supply tubes through which said two gases respectively flow independently from each other; and

a single gas supply member which supplies said gases into said processing chamber, and which has a portion disposed inside of said heating member, wherein

said two supply tubes are connected to said gas supply member in a region whose temperature is lower than a

temperature in said processing chamber in the vicinity of said substrate or substrates, and said two gases are supplied into said processing chamber through said gas supply member.

According to still another preferable aspect of the present invention, there is provided a semiconductor device producing method characterized in that

using a substrate processing apparatus having a processing chamber, which accommodates a substrate or substrates therein, and a heating member which heats said substrate or substrates, in which at least two gases which react with each other are alternately supplied into said processing chamber to form a desired film or films on a surface or surfaces of said substrate or substrates, comprising:

two supply tubes through which said two gases respectively flow independently from each other; and

a single gas supply member which supplies said gases into said processing chamber and which has a portion extending to a region whose temperature is equal to or higher than a decomposition temperature of at least one of said two gases, wherein

said two supply tubes are connected to said gas supply member at a location whose temperature is lower than the decomposition temperature of said at least one gas, and said

two gases are supplied into said processing chamber through said gas supply member,

said two gases are alternately supplied into said processing chamber through said gas supply member to form said desired film or films on said surface or surfaces of said substrate or substrates.

Brief Description of the Figures in the Drawings

Fig. 1 is a schematic longitudinal sectional view of a vertical substrate processing furnace of a substrate processing apparatus according to one embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a schematic transversal sectional view of the vertical substrate processing furnace of the substrate processing apparatus according to the one embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 3A is a schematic diagram for explaining a nozzle 233 of the vertical substrate processing furnace of the substrate processing apparatus according to the one embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 3B is a partial enlarged diagram of a portion A in Fig. 3A.

Fig. 4 is a schematic perspective view for explaining the substrate processing apparatus according to the one

embodiment of the present invention.

Preferable Mode for Carrying out the Invention

In a batch type processing apparatus according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention, trimethyl aluminum (chemical formula: $\text{Al}(\text{CH}_3)_3$, TMA) and ozone (O_3) are used as raw materials, the processing apparatus includes a substrate holding jig capable of holding a plurality of substrates, a reaction tube in which the substrate holding jig is inserted and which processes the substrates, heating means which heats the substrates, an evacuator capable of exhausting gas in the reaction tube, and one gas nozzle from which gas is issued toward the substrates in parallel to surfaces thereof, TMA and O_3 gas supply lines connected to the nozzle are merge with each other in a reaction chamber, TMA and O_3 are alternately supplied onto the substrates, thereby forming aluminum oxide films (Al_2O_3 films). Here, TMA is adsorbed on the substrate, O_3 gas which flows next reacts with the adsorbed TMA, and Al_2O_3 film of one atomic layer is produced.

If the pressure and the temperature of TMA are increased, self decomposition of TMA is prone to take place, and Al film is produced. The gas nozzle is provided with a nozzle hole from which gas is issued. Since the nozzle hole is small, the pressure in the nozzle becomes higher than the

pressure in the furnace. When the pressure in the furnace is 0.5 Torr (about 67 Pa), it is expected that the pressure in the nozzle becomes 10 Torr (about 1330 Pa). Therefore, especially in a nozzle located in a high temperature region, the self decomposition of TMA is prone to take place. On the other hand, although the temperature in the furnace is high, the pressure in the furnace does not become as high as that in the nozzle and thus, the self decomposition of TMA is less prone to take place. Therefore, a problem of generation of Al film in the nozzle becomes serious.

To remove Al_2O_3 film adhered to an inner wall of the reaction tube, ClF_3 gas is allowed to flow to carry out cleaning. If this cleaning gas is supplied from the nozzle, Al_2O_3 film in the nozzle can also be removed at the same time, and the cleaning operation is facilitated and efficiency thereof is also be enhanced.

The present invention is suitably applied not only to a forming operation of Al_2O_3 films but also to a forming operation of HfO_2 films. This is because that Hf raw material causes the same problem as that of TMA. In this case, In this case, O_3 gas and Hf raw material gas of vaporized tetrakis (N-ethyl-N-methyl amino) hafnium (liquid at normal temperature) are allowed to flow alternately to form HfO_2 film.

The present invention is also suitably applied to a

forming operation of SiO_2 films using the following materials:

(1) a case in which O_3 and Si_2Cl_6 (hexachloro disilane) are allowed to flow alternately to form SiO_2 films by the ALD method;

(2) a case in which O_3 and $\text{HSi}(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_3$ (TRIES) are allowed to flow alternately to form SiO_2 films by the ALD method; and

(3) a case in which O_3 and $\text{HSi}[\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2]_3$ (TrisDMAS) are allowed to flow alternately to form SiO_2 films by the ALD method.

Embodiment 1

Fig. 1 is a schematic diagram showing a structure of a vertical substrate processing furnace according to an embodiment, and is a vertical sectional view of a processing furnace portion, and Fig. 2 is a schematic diagram showing a structure of the vertical substrate processing furnace, and is a transverse sectional view of the processing furnace portion. Fig. 3A is a schematic diagram used for explaining a nozzle 233 of the vertical substrate processing furnace of a semiconductor producing apparatus of the embodiment, and Fig. 3B is a partial enlarged diagram of a portion A in Fig. 3A.

A reaction tube 203 as a reaction container is provided inside of a heater 207 which is heating means. The reaction tube 203 processes wafers 200 which are substrates. A

manifold 209 made of stainless steel for example is engaged with a lower end of the reaction tube 203. A lower end opening of the manifold 209 is air-tightly closed with a seal cap 219 which is a lid through an O-ring 220 which is a hermetic member. At least the heater 207, the reaction tube 203, the manifold 209 and the seal cap 219 form a processing furnace 202. The manifold 209 is fixed to holding means (heater base 251, hereinafter).

A lower end of the reaction tube 203 and an upper opening end of the manifold 209 are provided with annular flanges, respectively. A hermetic member (O-ring 220, hereinafter) is disposed between the flanges to air-tightly seal between them.

A boat 217 which is substrate holding means is vertically provided above the seal cap 219 through a quartz cap 218. The quartz cap 218 is a holding body which holds the boat 217. The boat 217 is inserted into a processing furnace 202. The plurality of wafers 200 to be batch-processed are multi-stacked on the boat 217 in their horizontal attitudes in an axial direction of the boat 217. The heater 207 heats the wafers 200 inserted into the processing furnace 202 to a predetermined temperature.

The processing furnace 202 is provided with two gas supply tubes 232a and 232b as supply tubes which supply a

plurality of (two, in this embodiment) kinds of gases to the processing furnace 202. The gas supply tubes 232a and 232b penetrate a lower portion of the manifold 209, merges with the gas supply tube 232a in the processing furnace 202, and the two gas supply tubes 232a and 232b are brought into communication with one porous nozzle 233. The nozzle 233 is provided in the processing furnace 202, and its upper portion extends to a region whose temperature is equal to or higher than the decomposition temperature of TMA supplied from the gas supply tube 232b. However, a location where the gas supply tube 232b merges with the gas supply tube 232a in the processing furnace 202 is a region whose temperature is lower than the decomposition temperature of TMA, and the temperature of this region is lower than a temperature of the wafers 200 and a temperature in the vicinity of the wafers 200. Here, reaction gas (O_3) is supplied from the first gas supply tube 232a into the processing furnace 202 through a first mass flow controller 241a which is flow rate control means, a first valve 243a which is an open/close valve, and a later-described porous nozzle 233 disposed in the processing furnace 202. Reaction gas (TMA) is supplied from the second gas supply tubes 232b into the processing furnace 202 through a second mass flow controller 241b which is flow rate control means, a second

valve 252 which is an open/close valve, a TMA container 260, a third valve 250 which is an open/close valve, and the porous nozzle 233. A heater 300 is provided in the gas supply tube 232b at a location between the TMA container 260 and the manifold 209, and the temperature of the gas supply tube 232b is maintained at 50 to 60°C.

An inert gas line 232c is connected to the gas supply tube 232b downstream of the third valve 250 through an open/close valve 253. An inert gas line 232d is connected to the gas supply tube 232a downstream of the first valve 243a through an open/close valve 254.

The processing furnace 202 is connected to a vacuum pump 246 which is exhausting means through a fourth valve 243d by a gas exhausting tube 231 which is an exhausting tube for exhausting gas so as to evacuate the processing furnace 202. The fourth valve 243d is the open/close valve which can open and close the valve to evacuate the processing furnace 202 and to stop the evacuation, and can adjust the pressure by adjusting the valve opening.

The nozzle 233 is disposed such as to extend from a lower portion to an upper portion of the reaction tube 203 along the stacking direction of the wafers 200. The nozzle 233 is provided with gas supply holes 248b through which a plurality of gases are supplied.

The boat 217 is provided at a central portion in the reaction tube 203. The plurality of wafers 200 are stacked on the boat 217. The wafers 200 are stacked at the same distances from one another. The boat 217 can come into and out from the reaction tube 203 by a boat elevator mechanism (not shown). To enhance the consistency of processing, a boat rotating mechanism 267 which is rotating means for rotating the boat 217 is provided. By rotating the boat rotating mechanism 267, the boat 217 held by the quartz cap 218 is rotated.

A controller 121 which is control means controls the first and second mass flow controllers 241a and 241b, the first to fourth valves 243a, 252, 250 and 243d, the valves 253 and 254, the heater 207, the vacuum pump 246, the boat rotating mechanism 267, and adjustment of flow rates of the first and second mass flow controllers 241a and 241b connected to the boat elevator mechanism (not shown), opening and closing operations of the first to third valves 243a, 252, 250 and valves 253 and 254, opening and closing operations and adjustment of pressure of the fourth valve 243d, adjustment of the temperature of the heater 207, actuation and stop of the vacuum pump 246, adjustment of rotation speed of the boat rotating mechanism 267, and vertical movement of the boat elevator mechanism.

Next, examples of forming operation of Al_2O_3 films using

TMA and O₃ will be explained.

First, semiconductor silicon wafers 200 on which films are to be formed are loaded on the boat 217, and the boat 217 is transferred into the processing furnace 202. After the transfer, the following three steps are carried out in succession.

[Step 1]

In step 1, O₃ gas is allowed to flow. First, the first valve 243a provided in the first gas supply tube 232a and the fourth valve 243d provided in the gas exhausting tube 231 are opened, and gas is exhausted from the gas exhausting tube 231 while supplying O₃ gas whose flow rate is adjusted by the first valve 243a from the first gas supply tube 232a into the processing furnace 202 through the gas supply holes 248b of the nozzle 233 and in this state. When O₃ gas is allowed to flow, the fourth valve 243d is appropriately adjusted, and the pressure in the processing furnace 202 is set to 10 to 100 Pa. A supply flow rate of O₃ controlled by the first mass flow controller 241a is 1000 to 1000 sccm. The wafers 200 are exposed to O₃ for 2 to 120 seconds. The temperature of the heater 207 at that time is set such that the temperature of the wafers becomes 250 to 450°C.

At the same time, if the open/close valve 253 is opened and inert gas is allowed to flow from the inert gas line

232c which is connected to an intermediate portion of the gas supply tube 232b, it is possible to prevent O₃ gas from flowing toward TMA.

At that time, the gas flowing into the processing furnace 202 is O₃ and only inert gas such as N₂ and Ar, and there exists no TMA. Therefore, O₃ does not cause the vapor-phase reaction, and surface-reacts with a ground film on the wafer 200.

[Step 2]

In step 2, the first valve 243a of the first gas supply tube 232a is closed to stop the supply of O₃. The gas exhausting tube 231 ϕ fourth valve 243d is held opened, the processing furnace 202 is evacuated by the vacuum pump 246 to a pressure equal to or lower than 20 Pa, and remaining O₃ is exhausted from the processing furnace 202. At that time, inert gas such as N₂ is supplied into the processing furnace 202 from the first gas supply tube 232a which is an O₃ supply line and from the second gas supply tubes 232b which is a TMA supply line, the evacuating effect of remaining O₃ is further enhanced.

[Step 3]

In step 3, TMA gas is allowed to flow. Here, TMA is liquid at the normal temperature. To supply TMA to the processing furnace 202, there are a method in which TMA is

heated and evaporated and then is supplied to the processing furnace 202, and a method in which inert gas called carrier gas such as nitrogen gas and rare gas is allowed to flow into the TMA container 260, and evaporated TMA is supplied to the processing furnace together with the carrier gas. Among them, the later method will be explained. First, all of a valve 252 provided in a carrier gas supply tube 232b, a valve 250 provided between the TMA container 260 and the processing furnace 202 and the fourth valve 243d provided in the gas exhausting tube 231 are opened, carrier gas whose flow rate is adjusted by the second mass flow controller 241b is allowed to flow through the TMA container 260 from the carrier gas supply tube 232b, and mixture gas of TMA and carrier gas is supplied to the processing furnace 202 from the gas supply holes 248b and in this state, gas is exhausted from the gas exhausting tube 231. When TMA gas is allowed to flow, the fourth valve 243d is appropriately adjusted and the pressure in the processing furnace 202 is set to 10 to 900 Pa. The supply flow rate of carrier gas controlled by the second mass flow controller 241a is 10000 sccm or less. The time during which TMA is supplied is set to 1 to 4 seconds. The time during which wafers are exposed to higher pressure atmosphere to further adsorb may be set to 0 to 4 seconds. The temperature of the wafer at that

time is 250 to 450°C like the case in which O₃ is supplied. By supplying TMA, O₃ of the ground film and TMA surface react with each other, and Al₂O₃ film is formed on the wafer 200.

At the same time, if the open/close valve 254 is opened and inert gas is allowed to flow from the inert gas line 232d which is connected to an intermediate portion of the gas supply tube 232a, it is possible to prevent TMA gas from flowing toward O₃ side.

After films are formed, the valve 250 is closed, the fourth valve 243d is opened, the processing furnace 202 is evacuated, and remaining gas which contributed to the formation of TMA films is exhausted. At that time, if inert gas such as N₂ is supplied into the processing furnace 202 from the first gas supply tube 232a which is the O₃ supply line and from the second gas supply tubes 232b which is the TMA supply line, the exhausting effect of remaining gas after the gas contributed to the formation of TMA films from the processing furnace 202 is enhanced.

If the steps 1 to 3 are defined as one cycle, Al₂O₃ films having predetermined thickness can be formed on the wafers 200 by repeating this cycle a plurality of times.

The processing furnace 202 is evacuated to remove O₃ gas and then, TMA is allowed to flow. Therefore, O₃ gas and TMA do not react with each other on the way to the wafers

200. The supplied TMA can effectively react only with O_3 which is adsorbed to the wafers 200.

The first gas supply tube 232a which is the O_3 supply line and from the second gas supply tubes 232b which is the TMA supply line merge with each other in the processing furnace 202. With this, TMA and O_3 can be adsorbed and can react with each other alternately even in the nozzle 233, thereby forming Al_2O_3 deposition films, and it is possible to avoid such a problem that Al film that can be a foreign matter generation source in the TMA nozzle when TMA and O_3 are supplied through independent nozzles. The Al_2O_3 film has more excellent adhesion as compared with Al film, and the Al_2O_3 film is less prone to be peeled off and thus, Al_2O_3 film is less prone to be the foreign matter generation source.

Next, referring to Fig. 4, an outline of the semiconductor producing apparatus which is one example of the semiconductor producing apparatus to which the present invention is preferably applied will be explained.

A cassette stage 105 as a holding tool delivery member which delivers a cassette 100 as a substrate accommodating container between a casing 101 and an external transfer apparatus (not shown) is provided on a front surface side in the casing 101. A cassette elevator 115 as elevator means is provided on a rear side of the cassette stage 105. A

cassette loader 114 as transfer means is mounted on the cassette elevator 115. A cassette shelf 109 as placing means of the cassette 100 is provided on the rear side of the cassette elevator 115, and an auxiliary cassette shelf 110 is provided also above the cassette stage 105. A clean unit 118 is provided above the auxiliary cassette shelf 110 so that clean air can flow into the casing 101.

The processing furnace 202 is provided above a rear portion of the casing 101. A boat elevator 121 as elevator means is provided below the processing furnace 202. The boat elevator 121 vertically moves the boat 217 as the substrate holding means to and from the processing furnace 202. The boat 217 holds the wafers 200 as substrates in the multi-stacked manner in their horizontal attitudes. The seal cap 219 as a lid is mounted on a tip end of a vertically moving member 122 which is mounted on the boat elevator 121, and the seal cap 219 vertically supports the boat 217. A loading elevator 113 as elevator means is provided between the boat elevator 121 and the cassette shelf 109. A wafer loader 112 as transfer means is mounted on the loading elevator 113. A furnace opening shutter 116 as a shielding member is provided by the side of the boat elevator 121. The furnace opening shutter 116 has an opening/closing mechanism and closes a lower surface of the processing furnace 202.

The cassette 100 in which the wafers 200 are rotated through 90° by the cassette stage 105 such that wafers 200 are brought into the cassette stage 105 from an external transfer apparatus (not shown) and the wafers 200 assume the horizontal attitudes. The cassette 100 is transferred to the cassette shelf 109 or the auxiliary cassette shelf 110 from the cassette stage 105 by cooperation of vertical movement and lateral movement of the cassette elevator 115 and forward and backward movement and rotational movement of the cassette loader 114.

The cassette shelf 109 includes a transfer shelf 123 in which cassette 100 to be transferred by the wafer loader 112 is accommodated. The cassette 100 on which the wafers 200 are set is transferred to the transfer shelf 123 by the cassette elevator 115 and the cassette loader 114.

If the cassette 100 is transferred to the transfer shelf 123, the wafers 200 are loaded on the boat 217 which is lowered from the transfer shelf 123 by cooperation of forward and backward motion and rotational motion of the wafer loader 112 and vertical motion of the loading elevator 113.

If a necessary number of wafers 200 are loaded on the boat 217, the boat 217 is inserted into the processing furnace 202 by the boat elevator 121, and the processing furnace

202 is air-tightly closed with the seal cap 219. In the air-tightly closed processing furnace 202, the wafers 200 are heated, processing gas is supplied into the processing furnace 202, and the wafers 200 are processed.

If the processing of the wafers 200 is completed, the wafers 200 are moved to the cassette 100 of the transfer shelf 123 from the boat 217 following the above procedure in reverse, the cassette 100 is moved to the cassette stage 105 from the transfer shelf 123 by the cassette loader 114, and is transferred out from the casing 101 by the external transfer apparatus (not shown). In the state in which the boat 217 is lowered, the furnace opening shutter 116 closes the lower surface of the processing furnace 202 to prevent outside air from entering into the processing furnace 202.

The transfer motions of the cassette loader 114 and the like are controlled by transfer control means 124.

The entire disclosure of Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-293953 filed on August 15, 2003 including specification, claims, drawings and abstract are incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Industrial Applicability

As explained above, according to the embodiment of the present invention, it becomes possible to form Al_2O_3

films by the ALD method using the batch type processing apparatus which has excellent mass productivity, and to suppress the formation of films such as Al films in the nozzle which is by-product.

As a result, the present invention can be preferably utilized especially for a substrate processing apparatus which processes a semiconductor wafer, and for a device producing method using the substrate processing apparatus.